

2021 Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative

Izard Lower Strawberry MRBI Fact Sheet



Overview

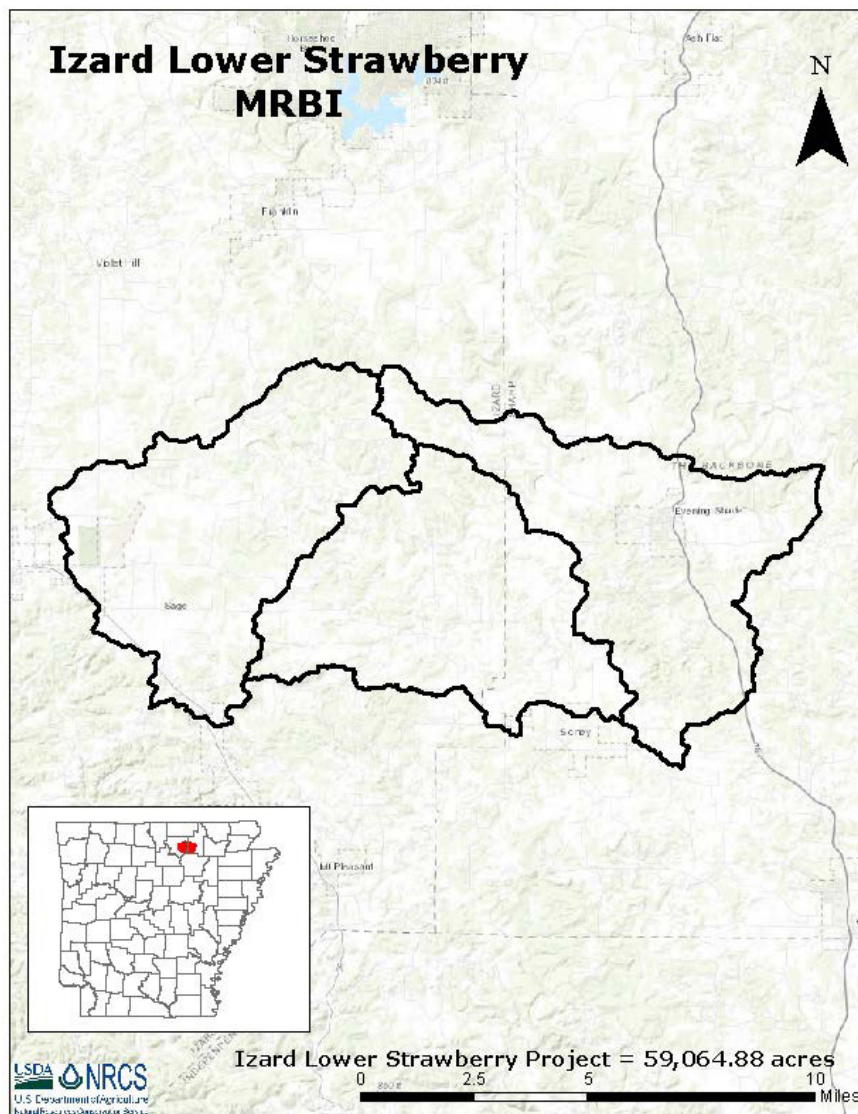
The Izard Lower Strawberry Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) Project is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers for addressing water quality concerns in the following watersheds: Caney Creek-Piney Fork, Mays Branch-Piney Fork, Mill Creek-Piney Fork. These watersheds lie in portions of Izard and Sharp counties. The project area covers 59,065 acres.

Resource Concerns Addressed by the Project

- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive sediment in surface water, field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss
- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive nutrient in surface water, field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss, storage and handling

Conservation Practice Funding

The life of the project is from 2021 through 2024. Each year of the project, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for a system approach using approved conservation practices to address water quality resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility, adjusted gross income, and all other program criteria for participation must be met to participate in this initiative. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.



ARKANSAS

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Project Goals

- 15% of priority field acres in the project area will be treated through implementing conservation plans and contracts.
- Increases water quality benefits through reducing sediment/ nutrient reductions. Achieve total load reduction of 20,000 tons of sediment by 2024.
- Pasture condition will improve on 25% of the eligible acres in the watersheds with a score categorization as “good to excellent” condition.

Approved Conservation Practices

- 314-Brush Management
- 315-Herbaceous Weed Control
- 378-Pond
- 342-Critical Area Planting
- 382-Fence
- 484-Mulching
- 512-Forage and Biomass Planting
- 516-Livestock Pipeline
- 528-Prescribed Grazing
- 533-Pumping Plant
- 561-Heavy Use Area Protection
- 614-Watering Facility
- 327-Conservation Cover
- 590-Nutrient Management
- 313-Waste Storage Facility
- 316-Animal Mortality Facility
- 367-Roofs and Covers
- 578-Stream Crossing
- 591-Amendment for Treatment of Waste
- 381-Silvopasture Establishment
- 612-Tree/Shrub Establishment
- 490-Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- 574-Spring Development
- 580-Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- 386-Field Border
- 642-Water Well

How to Apply for MRBI

NRCS and associated conservation partners will deliver this program collaboratively. Applications may be obtained and filed with NRCS at:

Izard County
Melbourne FSC
Oliver Building, Room 101
1357 East Main
P.O. Box 540
Melbourne, AR 72556
(870) 368-4413, ext.3

Sharp County
Ash Flat FSC
21C Court Road
Ash Flat, AR 72513
(870) 994-7335, ext. 3

If you need more information about MRBI, please contact one of the above offices or visit the NRCS Arkansas Web site at: www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov

Partners

- Izard County Conservation District
- Sharp County Conservation District
- University of Arkansas Extension
- Tri-County Feed and Farm
- John Deere
- First National Bank
- Burns Poultry Equipment
- Arkansas Grazing Land Coalition
- Batesville Poultry Equipment
- Fulton County Fair Board
- Sharp County Fair Board
- North Arkansas Electric
- Farm Bureau
- Tri-County Cattlemen’s Association
- Cave City School
- Ozarka College of Melbourne and Ash Flat